Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) Fact Sheet

Catoctin Creek Watershed, Loudoun County

What is a TMDL? Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a term used to describe the amount of a pollutant that a stream can receive and still meet Water Quality Standards. A TMDL Study identifies sources of pollution and reductions needed to attain standards. A TMDL Study considers both **point sources**, such as residential, municipal or industrial discharges, and **nonpoint sources**, such as residential, urban or agricultural activities. Additional information on Virginia's TMDL program can be found at http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl

Why was a TMDL prepared for the Catoctin Creek Watershed? The goal of the Clean Water Act is that all streams should be suitable for recreational uses, including swimming and fishing. **Fecal coliform and Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria** are used to indicate the presence of pathogens in streams and to determine support of the **swimmable use goal**. Bacteria content in Catoctin Creek exceed the fecal coliform criterion. Catoctin Creek was first listed as impaired in1994, and was subsequently listed in 1996, 1998 and 2002.

What portion of the Catoctin Creek Watershed was addressed in the TMDL Study? Portions of Catoctin Creek and its North and South Forks were listed as impaired by fecal coliform bacteria. The segment of the North Fork Catoctin Creek from the confluence of the North Fork with Catoctin Creek to a point 10.53 miles upstream is impaired. The entire length of the South Fork Catoctin Creek from the headwaters to the confluence with Catoctin Creek (17.26 miles) is impaired. Finally, the segment of Catoctin Creek from its confluence with Milltown Creek 7.40 miles downstream to its confluence with the Potomac River is impaired.

What happens now that the TMDL has been completed? The TMDL developed for the Catoctin Creek Watershed was approved by EPA on May 31, 2002. After EPA approval, a **TMDL Implementation Plan (IP)** is developed to identify the corrective actions needed to meet the TMDL's water quality goal. IPs must include a schedule of actions and their respective costs, a monitoring plan, and a target date for achieving compliance with water quality standards. Development of the Catoctin Creek IP began in April 2003 and is anticipated to be complete in March 2004.

How will the TMDL be implemented? The Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Conservation and Recreation (DCR) intend for nonpoint source TMDLs to be implemented through **Best Management Practices** (BMPs) and expect that implementation will occur in stages. Local stakeholders such as local governments or citizen groups can work with landowners to facilitate the actual implementation of BMPs. For Catoctin Creek, anthropogenic sources of bacteria will be targeted first and progress will be monitored during the implementation phase.

How will the public participate in TMDL IP development? Three formal public meetings are planned as part of the TMDL IP development process. The first meeting was held on September 30, 2003 to inform the public about the impairment and the TMDL process, and to obtain public comment. The second meeting will be held to present a draft IP and to solicit

public comment. A third public meeting will be held in the Spring of 2004 at which time the final implementation plan will be presented. Additional working group meetings will be held with stakeholders. Such meetings will help to ensure that the information used in the study is accurate and that the final IP reflects the concerns/issues of the watershed stakeholders. Public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, through direct mailings, and in the Virginia Register.

What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and Implementation efforts? Implementation of the Catoctin Creek bacteria TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial use of the stream, making it useable for swimming, splashing and wading without undue risk of illness. Additional benefits may be enhanced quality of life through improved public health and improved recreational activities. BMPs installed to control bacteria input to the stream will also result in conservation of natural resources, improved aquatic life, and riparian habitat.

What funding will be available to help support the stakeholders' efforts in implementing the TMDL? There are several sources of funding, such as the Virginia Revolving Loan Fund and various federal and state grant programs, that can be utilized to fund all or part of the corrective actions identified in a TMDL IP. The TMDL IP Guidance Manual includes additional information on funding sources. Information on DEQ and DCR programs, including information on TMDLs, may be found at http://www.deq.state.va.us and http://www.dcr.state.va.us

Whom may I contact to comment on or learn more about the Catoctin Creek TMDL IP?
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